

Message Text

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FOR SECRETARY FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJ: FAHMY'S STATEMENT RE PRESIDENT ASAD MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
FORD

REF: STATE 243341

1. I SAW RABIN AT 1630 TODAY IN JERUSALEM. AS INSTRUCTED, I
REFERRED TO RAHMY'S PRESS INDISCRETION AND THEN BRIEFED PRIME
MINISTER ON VTR APPROACH TO ASAD, KEYING MY REMARKS CLOSELY
TO PARAS 2 THROUGH 5 REFTEL.

2. RABIN SAID HE WAS GLAD FINALLY TO GET THE STORY FROM US.
AS I WAS AWARE FAHMY'S PRESS STATEMENT WAS GIVEN BANNER
TREATMENT IN TODAY'S ISRAELI PRESS, AND AT MEETING THIS MORNING
WITH CABINET RABIN WAS GIVEN ROUGH TIME BY HIS COLLEAGUES WHEN
HE WAS OBLIGED TO CONFESS IGNORANCE OF U.S. APPROACH TO
SYRIANS. REFERRING TO MY OBSERVATION THAT ISRAZLIS HAD KNOWN OF
OUR EFFORT LAST SUMMER TO ARRANGE ASAD MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
FORD, RABIN SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD OF THIS AND IF OTHERS
IN THE LEADERSHIP HAD BEEN INFORMED--WHICH HE DOUBTED, THE
WORD HAD NOT BEEN PASSED TO HIM. RE RECALLS YOUR SAYING
DURING THE SHUTTLE THAT HADDAM DID NOT ALWAYS REFLECT REAL
SYRIAN POSITIONS AND THUS ACCESS TO ASAD NECESSARY, BUT BEYOND
THIS RABIN HAD BEEN TOLD NOTHING. HE HAD NOTED CAREFULLY MY
STATEMENT THAT WE WOULD CONSULT FULLY WITH ISRAELIS ON SUBSTANCE

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THAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT ANY SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE

SYRIANS AND SAID HE READ THIS TO MEAN THAT NO COMMITMENTS AFFECTING ISRAELI INTEREST WOULD BE MADE TO SYRIANS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION AND CLEARANCE.

3. RABIN THEN SAID HE IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT SYRIAN MOVES--ASAD TO MOSCOW, ADAD'S BORTHER TO CAIRO, INCREASED READINESS POSTURE OF SYRIAN ARMED FORCES NOTED JUST TODAY. HE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH ASSESSMENT BY ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD PARALLELS OUR OWN, AND HE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS SOONEST ON MEANING OF ASAD'S TRIP TO MOSCOW. RABIN HIMSELF FEELS THAT MOSCOW MEETING WAS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO AGREE ON BROAD STRATEGY IN MIDDLE EAST--CERTAINLY POLITICAL AND POSSIBLY MILITARY AS WELL. AGREED STRATEGY OF COURSE WOULD HAVE BEARING ON TACTICAL HANDLING OF OCT 24 AND NOV 30 RENEWALS, SINAI II, AND LEBANON--BUT DOUBTFUL IF ANY OF THESE PROBLEMS WERE GIVEN DETAILED CONSIDERATION IN ONE-DAY MEETING. SHORT MEETINGS RABIN SAID, GENERALLY ARE CONCERNED WITH STRATEGY, NOT DETAILS. CITING ROUGH LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE., HE ADMITTED TO FEELING OF CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS. TOON

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